

EnerGComm

Federal Credit Union

...Your Interest Come First

www.energcomm.org

Butte Office: 2100 Harrison Avenue • Butte, Montana 59701 • (406) 782-2139

April 2007

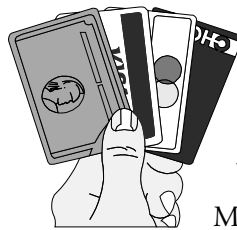
Colstrip Branch: 421 Willow • Colstrip, Montana 59323 • (406) 748-2324

Build Wealth and Reduce Debt



- Pay off high-interest credit card debts
- Pay all bills on time to avoid late fees
- Set a monthly limit on the amount you charge
- Steer clear of credit card courtesy checks and cash advances
- Don't borrow from Peter to pay Paul
- Work out a repayment plan with creditors
- Save money by repaying your loans early
- Check credit reports annually
- Call EnerGComm FCU to get help

Read This Before You Request Free Credit Reports



Wait – don't click just yet. Before you request your free annual credit report from each of the three main credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion), read this to avoid potential problems and pitfalls.

Watch for imposters—

Make sure you're on the right site if you want to retrieve your reports from the Internet. Use www.annualcreditreport.com.

If you're on a site that asks you to pay for your credit report, you may be on an imposter. How can you tell? Look for the "s" in https://, which means it's a secure site.

Use a trusted computer—

Don't use a library or public computer to request your free credit reports. Shared computers may inadvertently share your personal information with others.

Mask your SSN—

If you order your free reports using the toll-free number (877-322-8228), ask that only the last four digits of your Social Security number be displayed. Also, make sure the mailed report is sent to a secure mailbox.

Anticipate automated-phone problems—

If you have a long or complex name or a strong accent, you may have trouble communicating your request. Consider ordering your free reports by mail by printing the request form from ftc.gov/bcp/online/edcams/credit/ycr_free_reports.htm. Fill out the form and mail it to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

The Beater's Gotta Go

It ran its course. Now get back on course with an auto loan from the credit union.

Come see us first for all your auto loan needs.



Live Simply to Reap Savings



If you're eager to get off the earn-and-spend treadmill, you can make the shift to a lifestyle that embraces moderation and eliminates

excess. A successful transition, however, requires both a change in your spending habits and your relationship with money.

But surveys find that spending as a means to achieve greater fulfillment doesn't seem to work. So why do we keep spending beyond our means? Habit may be partly to blame. A daily routine that includes latte, lunch and snack purchases could have you spending \$10 a day without prompting a second thought.

To avoid mindless spending, Joe Dominguez and Vicki Robin, co-authors of "Your Money or Your

Life: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence", encourage consumers to ask whether each expenditure brought "fulfillment, satisfaction, and value in proportion" to the time it took to earn the money to pay for it. The key is figuring out what is enough and what is just excess. Stop viewing spending as a reward and saving as deprivation.

Adopt these techniques to start living beneath your means:

Make saving automatic.

That's easy to do: Just ask EnerGComm Federal Credit Union to set up a funds transfer from the account where your paycheck is deposited to a savings or investment account. You choose the day and the amount. If you do this, and you don't use credit or tap savings, you'll automatically be living beneath your means.

Track your spending.

The point of writing down everything

you spend is not to make you obsessive about your money, it's to make you aware of your choices. Your routine—do you go out to dinner every weekend?—may be one of the biggest obstacles to reducing your spending.

Challenge every expense.

Figure out how you might be able to reduce each of your essential expenses, from housing to transportation. Then determine which of your nonessential expenditures, such as entertainment and vacations, deliver the greatest bang for your buck and abandon those that are enjoyable but not essential to your happiness.

Avoid temptation.

The easiest way to do that is to abandon shopping as a recreational activity. Try to limit your exposure to ad-heavy celebrity and style magazines and television programs that make affluence look commonplace.

Celebrate Credit Union Youth with Us!

It is imperative that we do everything we can to help young people learn how to plan to achieve financial security—from learning how to spend money wisely now to thinking about saving for the future.

What we need today, confirmed by poor financial literacy test scores from across the country, is leadership to help raise the awareness of financial issues for young people.

The staff and members of EnerGComm Federal Credit Union are ideally positioned to respond because we believe in the power of

education—put to practical use—to improve the lives of our neighbors and our community.

Our tradition of service and philosophy of self-help make EnerGComm Federal Credit Union and

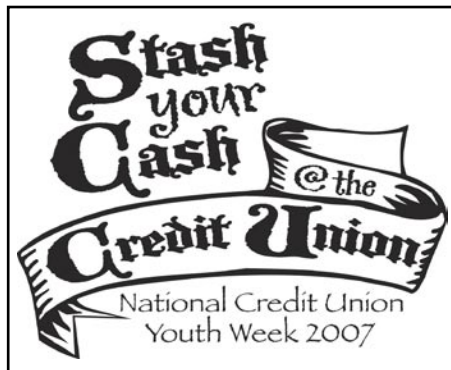
all credit unions a natural source of leadership in the fight against financial ignorance. We can help children better understand the credit union difference—better rates, lower fees, and extra attention to

make sure all members know how to manage money.

Join us this year as we celebrate

National Credit Union Youth Week from April 22-28. Our theme for 2007 is "Stash Your Cash @ the Credit Union."

What a great time to talk to your family about spending and saving, whether for a new bike or college.



Closures

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day

